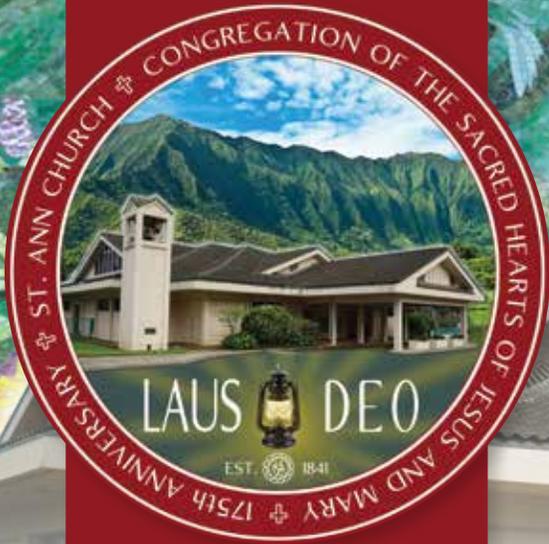


NOVEMBER 2018

Saint Ann Church



REMEMBERING AND PRAYING FOR OUR LOVED ONES: *All Souls' Day, Nov. 2*

The Church teaches that believers remain connected — whether they're in heaven, on earth or in purgatory, and that it is beneficial to pray for those who have died but are not canonized saints. Early Christians remembered and prayed for the dead, and the practice has continued since then.

All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, is a day that we honor those who have died. For many years here at St. Ann, we have held a special Mass on that day to honor those in the parish who have passed away in the previous year.

"This Memorial Mass is planned and organized by the St. Ann Church Bereavement Ministry Team in partnership with the St. Ann Knights of Columbus Council," says Barbara Honda, Pastoral Assistant. "The Bereavement Team acts as Liturgical Ministers and then the two groups host light refreshments on the church lanai."

Since All Souls' Day occurs on a Friday in 2018,



this year's Memorial Mass will begin at 7:30 p.m., following our 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

"Each year, we remember those who have had their services through St. Ann Church during the prior 12 months," Barbara says. "Invitations are sent to their families inviting them to join us at this Mass. In addition to those we have assisted with funeral preparations, we invite all our parishioners to join us, as well."

When the family of the deceased arrives for the Mass, they are given a candle to place on a

special table. At the end of Mass, the names are read and a family member comes forward to take their loved one's lit candle back into the congregation. Then, following the Mass, everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshments.

"Losing a family member is never easy," Barbara says. "We hope that inviting families back to St. Ann Church to remember and pray for their

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PRAYING IN HIS PRESENCE: *First Friday Adoration and Holy Hour*

Some people love to pray outside. Some enjoy the peacefulness of a comfortable chair, at home. Others find time to talk with God when they're driving. Then there are those who connect with the Lord in a special way, on the first Friday of each month, in Eucharistic Adoration. And while the Lord loves to hear from His children regardless of their location, there is certainly something special about being in His Presence.

Each "First Friday," parishioners are invited to spend time with the Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout the day, people volunteer to come and pray before the tabernacle, and at 6 p.m., a Holy Hour is celebrated, with Eucharistic Adoration. The Holy Hour includes a brief time of song and readings from Scripture, as well as plenty of time for quiet, personal prayer. The evening of prayer closes with Benediction, a special blessing.

"It is so worthwhile," says Barbara Honda, our Pastoral Administrative Assistant, who coordinates the First Friday Adoration. "There is ample time for quiet prayer, quiet reflection, just being in the Presence of our Lord. I know God is always with me, but there, you just get such a peaceful calming feeling."

For Barbara, and others, spending time in silence is one of the most powerful aspects of this type of prayer.

"There is so much noise in our lives," she says. "For me, spending this time in the chapel where I can just close my eyes, or stare at the host in the monstrance and not hear anything, it's just so amazing."

"I try to make time during other parts of my week, but I always know that I have this time and I



crave it," she adds. "It's quiet, and peaceful, and you feel Him washing over you."

Spending time in the Presence of Jesus, in the tabernacle, as well as in adoration, has deepened Barbara's experience of prayer.

"I know it has helped my prayer life," she says. "Now, I find myself going over during part of my lunchtime. It causes me to want to spend more time in the chapel, being close to the tabernacle. It's hard to explain, but I feel His Presence so much more than I used to."

Whether on First Fridays or another time, Barbara hopes that more parishioners will take

advantage of spending time with Jesus, truly present in the tabernacle.

"I don't think enough of us remember that most churches are open during the day," Barbara says. "We may not be close to our home parish while we're at work, but there's typically a Catholic Church somewhere nearby and if we really wanted to spend part of our lunch break in the presence of God in prayer, we could find a place to do that, even if it wasn't our home parish."

Barbara encourages those who have not yet had the opportunity to pray in adoration to attend the next Holy Hour.

"Come once," she says. "It's such an easy way to experience personal prayer, as well as prayer with others. We would welcome anyone who is interested in joining this group. I hope it gives people time to quiet themselves and their lives from everything that's going on around them, so they can be present with their God and enjoy what He is gifting to them, during that time."

If you would like more information about the First Friday Adoration and Holy Hour, please contact Pastoral Administrative Assistant Barbara Honda at 808-247-3092, ext. 115 or bhonda@saintannahawaii.org.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

November: A Time of Faithful Celebration and Sharing in Thanks

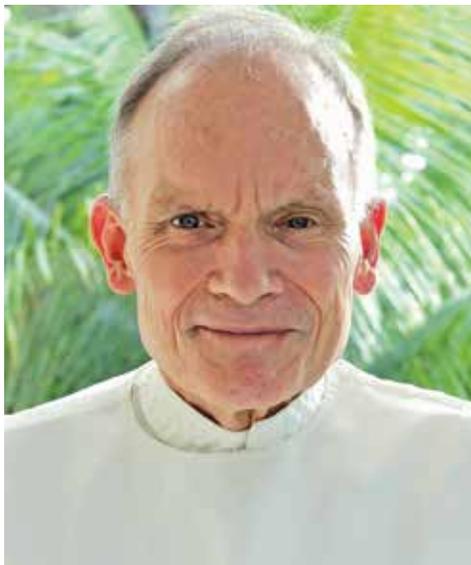
Dear Parishioners,

As I look over the calendar for November, my mind is filled with thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day, although I look towards it with happy anticipation — more than that, they are thoughts filled with a variety of reasons for why we should be thankful.

The month begins with a great celebration that should be a day of thanksgiving for all of us — All Saints' Day. This is a great feast celebrating the great company of Christians now in heaven — a company we shall eventually join, whether or not we're formally canonized, if we remain faithful to Christ.

And the communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and we are aided by their prayers.

And then, the very next day, we celebrate All Souls' Day. Although this day commemorates all the faithful departed who are being purified in Purgatory, it is natural for us to concentrate on the members of our own family and our friends who have died. While we pray for them, that they may soon experience the joys of heaven, at the



same time we also are thankful for the love they gave us and for the faith they passed on to us.

Then, later in the month comes Thanksgiving Day, the national holiday celebrating all the things for which we are thankful. The fact that it comes toward the end of autumn reminds us that it was originally a harvest festival. For Christians today, it's a wholesome reminder that we should thank God for everything we receive, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Why not participate in the Church's Great Thanksgiv-

ing, the Holy Eucharist, on Thanksgiving Day? It's the ultimate way to give thanks.

A reminder — while much of our attention this month may be drawn to the often contentious goings-on in our country, we need to remember that God is in charge of the universe, even though He has given us free will. If we trust in His loving care, demonstrated by returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us, we can withstand the troubles of life. It's a good principle to follow in this month of thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich McNally, ss.cc.
Pastor





Questions & Answers About Our Annual

Once again, it's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. You may be asking yourself, "Didn't we just have a Stewardship Renewal? Aren't we sufficiently 'renewed' by now?" Yes, we had a Stewardship Renewal last year, and we're going to have one next year, too! This is an annual occurrence — part of the rhythm of parish life at St. Ann. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more time, talent, or treasure in gratitude for the many blessings in your life?

Commitment Weekend is

November 17-18. Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Ann.

My age or physical limitations prevent me from being active in the parish. Should I still turn in a Commitment Card?

Yes! The first section of the card — Stewardship of Time — is the most important because it allows you to make commitments to *prayer*.

Even if you can't join a ministry or make it to Mass on Sunday, you can still pray for our parish. Your spiritual support has tremendous value in the eyes of God.

Last year I turned in a card, but no one ever called me when I signed up for a ministry.

If this happened in the past, please forgive us! And don't give up on filling out your Commitment Card! We have a very good plan to call every person interested in joining a new ministry. If for some reason the ministry leader does not call you within four weeks of turning in your card, let the parish office know.

WELCOMING CHRIST 2018 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL



ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Stewardship Renewal

How much should I give?

Your gift is entirely dependent on how much God has given you. At St. Ann, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

What if I can't fulfill my financial pledge?

While our pledge is not a "contract," we should all make a good-faith effort to fulfill it. Of course, if your financial circumstances change — if you lose your job, for instance — then the amount of money you give the Church will change, too. Likewise if you get a raise or bonus. The biggest reason many people don't fulfill their pledge is that they attend Mass at another parish when they go on vacation, attend a wedding, etc. If you're out of town, just make up for the missed Sunday when you write your next check to the parish. Using your envelopes is a good way to see which Sundays you missed. Signing up for "Online Giving" is another way to ensure that your gift reaches the parish when you are unable to attend.

I don't even go to Mass very frequently. Why turn in a Commitment Card?

Because this is your chance to turn over a new leaf! Why not make a commitment to God to come to Mass every Sunday, and then write down that commitment? Even if that's the only commitment you make, take a step forward. Jesus Himself is waiting for you!

What happens if I don't return my Commitment Card?

We will mail you a reminder letter that includes an extra Commitment Card (in case you misplaced yours). Make every effort you can to participate. Our Stewardship Renewal is a very important annual event in the life of our parish. You and your family are part of what makes St. Ann a great community! Most importantly, your commitments are actually promises to Christ Himself. All of us are called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us.

WELCOMING CHRIST
ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH



2018 Commitment Card
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: *First & Last Name*

Spouse: *Phone*

Spouse: *Email*

Address

City State ZIP

Please bring this card to Mass on November 17th or 18th, or mail using the envelope provided.
Thanks and God bless you!

Every parish family receives a special "Stewardship Package" in the mail that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card.



REACHING OUT AND GIVING THANKS: *St. Ann Parishioners*

For years, Hawai'i's Institute for Human Services (IHS) has worked to end homelessness and to serve those in need in our community. While many of their efforts are near and dear to the hearts of St. Ann parishioners, this Thanksgiving season, IHS parish volunteers reflect upon the call from the Holy Spirit to feed the hungry. On the fourth Sunday of each month, parishioners serve meals at two IHS Honolulu shelters — one for women and children, and one for men.

"I give my time because I have been so abundantly blessed," says Vicki Pereira, who has served for the past year. "This service has made me realize that God is so good, and this is the least I can do. What I enjoy the most is seeing their faces after they have eaten — seeing them so satisfied and happier than when they came in for the meal."

"I enjoy seeing people smile, seeing them come to a safe place where their needs can be met, and to see them relax in a non-judgmental atmosphere," says parishioner and volunteer Danielle Miller. "I believe it is a gift to be able to help people, and definitely those people in need. We have an opportunity to show compassion and care actively and to remind people that they are not alone."

The food for the meals is prepared in the men's shelter kitchen, and parishioners serve the residents and meal guests



St. Ann volunteers serve at the IHS kitchen.

at either the men's shelter or the women's shelter.

"I am in the food service business, and working in a kitchen and serving are right in my wheelhouse," says Marcia Wright, who has been serving for the past three years. "I enjoy working with others and meeting new people and families! The team we build accomplishes much, and the satisfaction of knowing we helped the people at IHS do their job just makes it that much more fun and exciting."

Individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate, and many families often serve

together. Parishioner Kalani Castro actually served for the first time as a teenager, and now, 20 years later, he serves along with his 12-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter.

"I feel that both my generation and the generations after me are in a world where the focus on 'me' is becoming a big focal point in how we operate," Kalani says. "While it is important to care for ourselves, I now feel that it is also important to carve out some time to help others, as well. I think that we receive our best blessings when we give to other people. The best way to teach our

and Families Serve at IHS Shelters

children to be of service to others is to demonstrate it ourselves — hence, why it is important for service to be experienced as a family.

“I enjoy the conversations that my children and I have after we serve,” he adds. “I tell them how I want them to experience being of service to people. We also discuss how blessed we are to have the things that we have.”

Parishioners Jason and Lyn Tagal, and their 12-year-old daughter, Taylor, have served twice over the past year. Most recently, they also brought Jason’s brother, Mark, along. The Tagals enjoy giving back together, and serving as a family has helped them to count their blessings. Jason and Lyn also appreciate the opportunity to set a good example for Taylor.

“As parents, we lead by example and the best way to teach our children is through our own actions,” Jason says. “It is always very rewarding to help to feed the hungry — the shelter residents there are always very thankful. We all lead very busy lives and often focus on our careers and business success. However, everything that we have is only given to us by the grace of God and we must always be humble, thankful and able to make time to help others.”

By helping others, these volunteers have also been able to grow personally and to grow in faith.

“My family and I have all grown through our community service,” Jason says. “Feeding the homeless is a special and different experience that we are proud to be a part of.”

“Helping in this capacity definitely reinforces my faith,” Danielle says. “It helps me also remember God’s work in my life and that compassion for others is such an important part of life. I was able to serve with my sister-in-law, and we have become closer in our shared desire to help others. We believe that the younger generations in our family can

benefit from our example.”

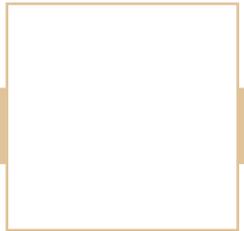
“I have grown so much,” Marcia says. “When my husband died eight years ago, I lost my faith for a little while, but realized that the Lord was the one who was keeping me strong to continue my journey. My husband was a devout Catholic — he loved his church and his faith, he was a Knights of Columbus member, he was in the Music Ministry and helped in every way the church needed him to. I needed to get as strong in my faith as my husband was in his, and serving the church and the people have given that to me. Working at IHS makes me feel like I have done good and in a small way have followed in God’s footsteps.”

Kalani has had such a positive experience serving with IHS that it has inspired him to get more involved in parish life and service opportunities.

“It’s worth it for so many reasons — it allows my children and me to be of service to others in need, and provides my children with learning experiences of how to be of service to others,” he says. “The experience also provides us with some important family time, and gives us some perspective on how we spend many hours of our day. Prior to serving at IHS, we did not do service for our parish. After serving, I developed the desire to be more involved with the parish and I became a member of our Knights of Columbus. I also joined one of our parish’s committees.

“I feel happy and grateful when I feed the hungry and am able to serve and help someone who is in need,” he adds. “Once in a while, some people at the shelter want to talk story with me, which feels great because it allows me to connect with them a little. I feel grateful because I am able to see how blessed I am in my own life. I make it point to pray to God in the mornings and thank Him for all the wonderful blessings He has given to me.”

*If you would like more information about feeding the hungry through IHS,
please contact the parish office at 808-247-3092.*



Saint Ann Church

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808-247-3092 | www.saintannahawaii.org

All Souls' Day

continued from front cover

loved one will help them find comfort and continue their healing process.”

Every celebration of Mass includes prayers for the dead. The feast of the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, or All Souls' Day, gives special focus to the belief that we remain in communion with those who have gone before us “marked with the sign of faith.” The month of November is traditionally associated in the Catholic Church with remembrance of the dead. In liturgical celebrations, however, remembrance is not just about looking back to the past, but also looking ahead to the future in trust and hope. Just as our loved one shared in Christ's death in Baptism, we believe that he or she will share in Christ's resurrection and enjoy eternal life in God's presence.

Additional information may be found in the church bulletin, on our website, or by contacting Barbara Honda in the church office at 808-247-3092, ext. 115.



ADVENT RETREAT 2018

Paint and Pray

Dec. 3, 2018

Parish Center, 7-9 p.m.

Registration Limited and Required

Cost of Materials: \$20

Instructor: Sherrie Pokipala

Please contact Alike Sheldon at

808-292-6442 or slp79akamai@msn.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.

Saturday: Vigil: 6 p.m. | **Daily Mass:** 7:00 a.m. | **Confession:** Saturday, 4 p.m.